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FROM: Dar-es-Salaam

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 252, October 10, 1 p.m.

ACTION DEPARTMENT 252, INFORMATION ACCRA 4, LONDON 58, NAIROBI UNNUMBERED

Reference: DEPCIRTEL 644

Should US decide against participation Volta Project, believe immediate Tanganyikan relation would be sharp criticism of US. Preview of local reactions provided by NGURUMO editorial October 6 condemning US for offering aid "without strings" and subsequent my imposing political conditions. Ghana still regarded here as birthplace African movements for liberation and unity, while Nyerere and his associates admire and are deeply influenced by Nkrumah. It possible that in first heated reaction to such US step TANGOV might well take measures inconvenient to US, particularly announcement coincided with period when Tanganyika formulating policies and establishing precedents pursuant to emergence as independent state. However, question as to long-term effect of US pulling out of Volta Project on Tanganyika-US relations depends in part on public explanations US offers at time. If explanations plausible, and most important, if they enunciated a US policy re economic assistance which will be consistently applied on world-wide basic, then long-term effect in Tanganyika might ultimately be salutary. However, if it appears to Tanganyikans that Ghana selected for special chastisement while non-African states pursuing similar policies continue received US aid, then US action will be interpreted here in "neo-colonialist" and racist terms and political effect of action would be largely wasted.

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